



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
IOWA TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

Mission: Promoting innovative female responsive techniques through education and advocacy

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 6, 2020
via Google Meet*

Present: Andrea Dickerson; Jackie Ellenbecker; Stephanie Hernandez; Julie Martin; Danielle Masten; Maria Valdez

Staff: Steve Michael; Kathy Nesteby; Dave Kuker; Brianne Messer; Tiara Mosley; Kayla Powell; Julie Rinker; Kylie Spies

Others: LaTasha DeLoach, Interim Chair, DMC Subcommittee; Sheryl Dahm, Iowa Correctional Institution for Women

Introductions/Announcements

In the absence of Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair, Kathy Nesteby welcomed all in attendance at 10:13 a.m. A quorum was not maintained. Introductions were made. Members discussed issues on which they are currently working. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing concerns, this meeting was held virtually through Google Meet.

Approval of Minutes

- May & August—The minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

JJAC/CJJP/COVID Update

Steve Michael provided the following update:

- Overview of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) and its subcommittees, including this Task Force. The JJAC is governor-appointed and serves to oversee juvenile justice in Iowa. The subcommittees serve to provide oversight in two areas, gender and disproportionate minority contact.
- Dave Kuker is retiring in late December. Jill Padgett has been hired and will start December 1 to provide some overlap for training.
- A report was recently released “Racial Disparities – An Analysis of Three Decision Points in Iowa’s Juvenile Justice System”. It will be shared with this subcommittee.
- “Youth Action Squads” have been seated and comprise marginalized youth aged 14-24 from across the state who have had experience in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These squads will focus on the effects of COVID-19 on youth and racial justice. Staff will facilitate discussions to develop an action plan for change(s).

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

DMC Subcommittee update

LaTasha DeLoach, interim DMC Chair, provided information on G World in the Iowa City/Johnson County area. Their grant was renewed for another three years. Over 1,000 girls have been served by the program.

DeLoach reported that the DMC Subcommittee has also been working on their goals and objectives. She noted the importance of pre-charge diversion programs and other efforts to reduce over-representation of minority youth, the need for services for deep-end youth, and reducing or rescinding adult court waivers. The DMC will continue to collaborate with this Task Force on priorities for girls of color and racial/gender equity for all youth.

She encouraged members to review the recent report on racial disparity released by CJJP.

Find Our Sisters

- Sheryl Dahm, Warden & Lorie Woodard, Deputy Warden ICIW

Sheryl Dahm, Warden, Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, provided information. Due to COVID-19, risk levels were reviewed and several women were released. She noted the importance of trauma-informed care and that it has been included in their practice, interviewing techniques, and staff training. Other efforts have related to consensual sex and protections for inmates. She offered to obtain information from inmates regarding ways to improve the juvenile justice system for girls, noting that shoplifting charges and past abuse as factors to incarceration and the need for more interventions.

- Volunteer for next meeting

Kayla Powell reported that she has contacted Job Corps and they would be happy to present at the February meeting. Jennifer Tibbetts noted her interest in having them present information. Powell will contact Job Corps staff and make arrangements with them.

JJAC Priorities for 2021-2023

- ITFYW Goals and Objectives

Tibbetts asked members to review the current goals and objectives to identify what should remain for the next three years or has already been completed.

After a brief discussion, there was consensus amongst those present to keep the following:

GOAL 1: Make the experiences and needs of girls who are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system (i.e. black, native and LGBT youth) central to the ongoing work of the ITFYW.

GOAL 2: Establishment of a specialized setting(s) for serious, violent and chronic offenders as well as systemic measures to reduce the need for such a setting as outlined in the recommendations of the Iowa Girls Justice Initiative report.

GOAL 3: Fill the gaps and improve the quality in the continuum of care for girls in both residential and community-based service settings with well-defined options that allow for differential responses based on culture, risk level, development and needs.

There was consensus to remove Goal 4 (**GOAL 4:** Dedicated state funds for equitable treatment of females in the JJ system.) and hold a future conversation on what may be done and also to weave these concerns throughout the other goals.

Tibbetts also reviewed the 2021-2023 Female Equity goals and objectives discussed during the JJAC Retreat:

Priority 4: Female Equity

Goal 1: Make sure that a female and racial equity lens is intentionally used in all areas.

- Train the JJAC on female and racial equity
 - Collect information on who participated in the training—members and staff
- Leverage JJAC funding to require female and racial equity training

Goal 2: State Training School Level of Care

- Continue to push Deep End recommendations (former priority)
 - Engagement of legislative champions to overcome resistance to this level of care.
 - Implementation of any of the recommendations from the IGJI report

Other potential goals for Female Equity to be further discussed by the ITFYW

- Additional funding for staff support
- Continue revamp of cornerstone publication regarding using the female-responsive approach. “Healing Justice”. Use it to push Female-Responsive Approach as best practice
- Pipeline into the system - especially for black girls
- Making sure the female lens is used in all things and is intersectional
- Assess and review data related to prevention and intervention services for females (side by side with males)
- Fund Female-responsive services (evidence-based)
- *Previous Goal:* Make the experiences and needs of girls who are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system (i.e. black, native and LGBT youth) central to the ongoing work of the ITFYW.
- *Previous Goal:* Establishment of a specialized setting(s) for serious, violent and chronic offenders as well as systemic measures to reduce the need for such a setting
- *Previous Goal:* Fill the gaps and improve the quality in the continuum of care for girls in both residential and community-based service settings with well-defined options that allow for differential responses based on culture, risk level, development and needs.
- *Previous Goal:* Dedicated state funds for equitable treatment of females in the JJ system.

The following was discussed:

- Include a goal to work collaboratively with the DMC Subcommittee.
- Assess/review goals side by side with males to make sure girls are included.
- Coordinate services with DHS to provide prevention/early intervention.
- The Transition of Youth priority area needs to include needs for girls.
- Recommend to the JJAC that each priority area include female and cultural responsivity and data by race and gender.
- The need for services for deep-end girls to avoid high charges in order to provide services.

Dave Kuker spoke about adult court waivers and stated that high risk kids need high quality services and suggested that Juvenile Court Services and JCO's concentrate their time on high risk kids instead of putting them in an adult system.

Healing Justice publication

- OJJDP grant
- Workgroup meeting

There was consensus to include the publication under one of the goals as an objective. Nesteby will schedule another workgroup meeting.

New Membership

Members were encouraged to contact those they have previously identified who would be interested in membership. Nesteby will resend that list.

Old Business

There was no further business discussed.

Adjournment

Tibbetts thanked Dave Kuker for his work in juvenile justice. Kuker responded that he was appreciative of the work conducted by this Task Force and encouraged members to continue.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
Iowa Department of Human Rights